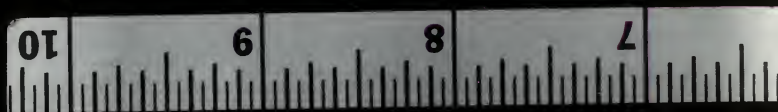
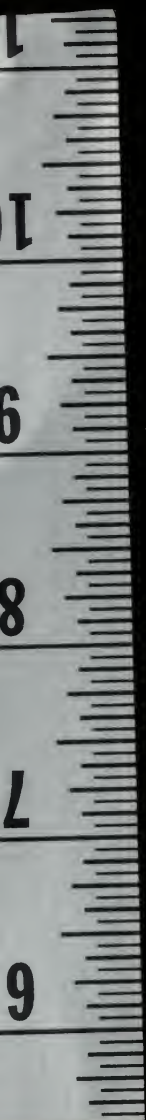


06





1799-1949

*The One Hundred and Fiftieth
Anniversary of the building of the First
Church on the present Church site.*

Although our First Church was built in South Natick in 1651, we now quietly honor the building of the First Church in Natick Center.

Our early records show that our South Natick Church had an interesting and very important role under Eliot, Takawambait, Peabody and Badger. In the late 1700's controversy and dissatisfaction crept in, and the South Natick Church group was disbanded.

The Town records of 1798 show that it was voted "to build a fourth Meeting House" at Natick center on the Ministerial lot at "the cross-roads where the old pound formerly stood".

The Church construction started June 6, 1799. The building was 40 x 45 feet, two stories in height. Inside were square

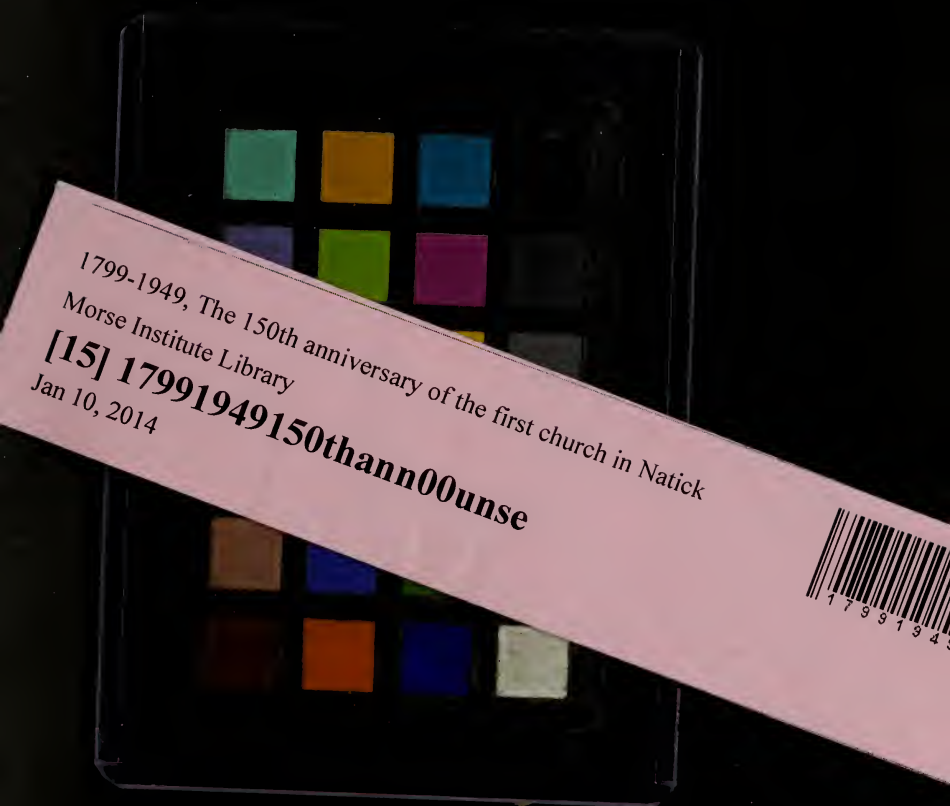
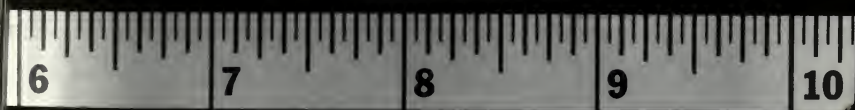
high-backed box pews. A high pulpit and a Deacon's bench faced the pews and gallery.

The cost was \$1500. The roof was painted red, the walls white. The old print at the head of this brief history, shows the building as it looked then with it's surrounding cemetery.

This new Church was primarily for the English inhabitants, as the Indian population had practically disappeared. There were ten male and thirteen female members of this new group. The ministers for the first few years were hired by the Town Selectmen. The first full time minister, Rev. Freeman Sears, was not hired until 1806.

Until 1802 the Church and Town were one body, and until then the history of the Church is the history of the Town. Our present Building is the fourth on this site, and the seventh in Natick.

1820
*"The seventh Church, God of the Faithful,
Bless it, accept it, make it Thine.
Loving hearts have carefully built it,
Guard it, keep it, for all time."*



1799-1949, The 150th anniversary of the first church in Natick
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Jan 10, 2014

